

File: H\_H\_Hall\_1859\_02\_18.doc

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Note: parts of the MS are in poor condition, due to water damage, and some words are either indecipherable or difficult to read

Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 18 February 1859

[?GPO]

Bourke St Melbourne

Feb<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1859

My dear brother

I was rather surprised at not receiving a line from you here in reply to mine enclosing the pound note. I told you I could not get any [?thing] like a price for your watch [?in Sandhurst] so resolved to bring it to [? Melbourne] I hawked it over the Town until I was sick of it and at last sold it to a jeweller to break up — a respectable watchmaker took it to pieces in my presence and shewed me it was a regular swindle the case formerly belonged to good works, but they had been taken out and regular [---] substituted which had been taken out of a much smaller watch — the chain was tested by several who said it was only brass very [?slightly] washed — I only got 35/- for it and that with considerable difficulty I felt so disgusted with the price that I would not have sold it if I had not known I should want the money — And I felt we had too much at stake to stand at a trifle — however you must contrive to get my watch from Taylor and make what you can of it — but never bring anything of that description to Melbourne I have seen no one in Melbourne I know and have carefully avoided to [?hunt] any up as I knew it would add to expense. I am staying at a boarding House and paying a shilling a meal of course it is a very [?rough] place, but I am pretty well used to such company but though poor and dirty they are well [?conducted] It is the Inkerman [?B<sup>g</sup>] [?H<sup>l</sup>] next the Rose of Australia — I walked down to the Sunbury Railway station and came in 23 miles in an hour, for 5/- this is a great convenience for people from the country Mrs Bracher has another daughter a week since I spent ½ day at Tho<sup>s</sup> Turner's they have lost [?their] second son Charley who was drowned in the creek I slept three nights at Stewarts — they were very [?pleased] to see me — of course I only knew the old folks and Annie, they asked very kindly after you and said how much they would like to see you — I did not say much about my affairs, but they recommended me

very strongly to sell out and come and get a bit of land near them — They have 60 acres, rent £160 per annum for 5 years and had to build the house at their own expense they have this season about 2000 bushels of corn and a good stack of hay — they have 500 bush: wheat from 10 acres — thats something like a crop They are certainly a most amiable and united family and the more I know of them the more I admire — I had a letter from Taylor he has been doing badly and my old party have been doing worse — I saw Capt Ashby our former steward of *Dispatch* yesterday, he saw Anderton just after his marriage at the Swan I came into Town on Tuesday and leave tomorrow Saturday in the *Havilah* for Adelaide I will write you again from there — I need scarcely tell you I have been to no place of amusement here, but by what I can see from an outside view I have no doubt one might spend £10 very comfortably. I have been to see a collection of minerals from all parts of the world exhibited gratis.

I had nearly forgotten to say I did not go to [?Fred's] for I had enough of walking I must now say good bye remember me kindly to Jim May God bless you my dear brother and may we shortly meet again is the sincere prayers of

Your ever affect brother

H H Hall

I shall leave M with 16£ after paying the passage to A which is [?£4] and the rate from A to the Swan £10 to 15£ so if I land at the Swan with [?a pound] it will be good work